



The City of Morgantown

389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
www.morgantownwv.gov

CONTACT: Susan Sullivan, Public Communications Manager
ssullivan@cityofmorgantown.org
304-284-7426

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Rick Bebout, Volunteer Hunt Coordinator
bebout.rick@gmail.com
304-290-7205

Annual Urban Deer Hunt Ready for New Archer Applications

MORGANTOWN – The hunt call is going out to urban sportsman to join the efforts to curb the abundant deer population within City limits.

Planning has begun for the 2014 Urban Deer Archery Hunt, and, as last year, registration is beginning in early spring to help gauge interest and prepare for another successful year.

The goal of the Urban Deer Archery Hunt is to lower the amount of complaints about destruction of property due to deer and the number of urban deer/vehicle accidents. This hunt also comes with a major bonus: donated venison from the hunt is donated to local food pantries and shelters to help feed Morgantown's hungry.

Hunt Organizer Rick Bebout reported to City Manager Jeff Mikorski that 137 deer were taken during the four-month hunt in 2013– up 19 from 2012's numbers. This provided 1,831 pounds of fresh venison for donation.

Year	Hunters	Deer Taken	Donated Venison
2011	67	45	400 lbs.
2012	77	118	1,617 lbs.
2013	90	137	1,831 lbs.

The hunt covered 22 public and private properties within City Limits last year, and at least one deer was taken from each property. Some of the most popular and fruitful properties included:

- Norwood Area property, 15
- BOPARC's Dorsey's Knob Park, 14
- Green Bag Road Hillside Property, 13
- WVU Farm Woodlot, 10
- WVU Motor Pool Property, 10

A few other properties have already been identified that could benefit the hunt's efforts, including land in Suncrest and along Mon Boulevard, which are popular deer routes, considering their wooded terrain. 2013 saw a large increase in land included in the hunt, thanks to private land owners offering lots that could be grouped together for larger hunt areas.

Bebout says that by identifying more hunting grounds inside city limits, it has greatly increased the number of deer harvested. Combined with the hunters' four-year record of 0 incidents reported, he is hopeful that more residents will come forward to both hunt...and have land hunted upon.

"The City is continuing to accept landowner requests to have their property hunted. If landowners believe their property is suitable for hunting, we'll evaluate them on safety and access criteria," said Bebout.. Interested landowners can contact the City Manager's office or contact Bebout directly.

To register for the permit lottery for new hunters, residents can visit Google Forms and fill out the application found at <http://ow.ly/uhwfF>. The registration process will be open through Friday, April 18.

Additional information can be found on the Urban Deer Archery Hunt Page at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/residents/urban-deer/>.

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